

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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R 221516Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5841
INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2469

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, PEPR, FI, DA, SW
SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN VIEW ON KEKKONEN'S LATEST NUCLEAR FREE
SPEECH

REFS: (A) HELSINKI 1457 (B) STOCKHOLM 1902

1. ON MAY 22 UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY
STOLTENBERG BRIEFLY STATED TO AMBASSADOR GON'S VIEW OF KEKKONEN'S
STOCKHOLM SPEECH (REF B). ACCORDING TO STOLTENBERG, THE NORWEGIANS
DISCUSSED THE SPEECH WITH THE FINNS AND ASKED THEM WHY THE FINNISH
PRESIDENT CHOSE TO RAISE HIS PROPOSAL AGAIN AT THIS TIME. THE
FINNS SAID IT HAD BEEN BROUGHT UP AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF QUOTE
THE NEW SITUATION UNQUOTE. WHEN THE NORWEGIANS ASKED WHAT THAT
MEANT, THE FINNS HAD SIMPLY REFERRED TO CRUISE MISSILES.

2. STOLTENBERG SAID THAT FROM THIS RATHER CRYPTIC EXCHANGE
THE GON HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE FINNS FEAR THAT THE ADVENT OF
CRUISE MISSILES INTO THE WESTERN INVENTORY MAY PROMPT THE
SOVIETS TO ASK FINLAND FOR SOME KIND OF EARLY WARNING STATIONS
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OR INSTALLATIONS ON FINNISH SOIL TO COUNTER THE CRUISE MISSILE
THREAT. IN REPLY TO OUR QUESTION, STOLTENBERG STATED THAT
THIS WAS ONLY NORWEGIAN SPECULATION SINCE THE FINNS HAD
NOT CLARIFIED THEIR PURPOSES BEYOND THE REPLY GIVEN IN
PARA ONE ABOVE.

3. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION, DEFENSE UNDERSECRETARY HOLST

RECENTLY MENTIONED TO US THAT HE THOUGHT KEKKONEN'S TIMING WAS RELATED TO THE UPCOMING SSOD. HE WAS CONCERNED THAT THE FINNISH PRESIDENT'S SPEECH FORESHADOWED A FINNISH EFFORT TO PUSH THE NUCLEAR FREE PROPSAL AT THE SSO, WHICH HE THOUGHT WOULD COMPLETE INTER-SCANDINAVIAN COOPERATION AT THE CONFERENCE.

4. KEKKONEN'S PROPOSAL ALSO AROSE DURING NORWEGIAN PRIME MINISTER NORDLI'S RECENT OSLO MEETINGS WITH HIS DANISH COLLEAGUE ANKER JORGENSEN. ACCORDING TO MFA SOURCES BOTH AGREED IT WOULD BE BEST TO KEEP A LOW PROFILE OF THE SUBJECT SO AS TO AVOID APPEARING TO BE QUOTE GANGING UP UNQUOTE ON KEKKONEN WITH THIER NEGATIVE REACTIONS.
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